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A HAND - BOOK

— Of the church of the —

UNITED BRETHREN

IN CHRIST.

publishing about 1901



By REV. T. H. IBBOTT,
Bloomingdale, Ont.

AUTHOR OF.—“The Best Friend to Have is Jesus,” and
“Which is Scriptural Baptism: Infant Sprinkling or
Believers’ Immersion?” etc., etc.

N.B. Sample copies of the above three booklets may be
had from the author post free for 5 cents.

HISTORICAL STATEMENT.

THE church of the United Brethren in Christ had its origin during the latter half of the eighteenth century in a revival movement that spread over Eastern Pennsylvania and Maryland, in 1766. Among the evangelists in this revival were William Otterbein, a minister in the German Reformed church, and Martin Boehm, a minister in the Mennonite church. These men of God began their revival work without the one having any knowledge of the other and also without any thought of organizing a separate denomination. Providence brought them together in a great meeting, and afterward led them to organize their converts into classes for the purpose of instructing and edifying them. After a powerful sermon by Mr. Boehm at one of their meetings, Mr. Otterbein arose and threw his arms around Mr. Boehm and said, "we are brethren." When they afterward came to organize a church, the memory of that meeting suggested the name, "UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST." This organization was effected at Frederick, Maryland, on the 25th of September, 1800. (The first conference was held in the city of Baltimore, Maryland, in 1789). At the general conference held at Mt. Pleasant, Pa., 1815, a book of Discipline was adopted, containing the doctrine and rules of the church, the Conference desiring that these, together with the Word of God, should be strictly observed, and admonishing the membership in the following manner: God is a God of order; but where there is no order and no church discipline, the spirit of love and charity will be lost. Therefore, brethren, we beseech you to follow the example of our Lord, as it is written, "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another." Let the mind be in you which was in Christ, who took upon him the form of a servant, humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross, that by His grace we may submit ourselves one to another in the fear of God. He who will not submit is in want of humble love. Jesus said, "Whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all." By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples if ye have love one to another." He that loveth not his brother abideth in death." Let us walk in newness of life, that the prayers of our Lord may be answered in us, that we may be one in Him and that He may give us the glory which He gave to His disciples, that we may be one even as He and the Father are one.

Therefore, Beloved Brethren, let us strive to be like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let no one speak or think evil of his brother, but pray God

that he may grant us His Spirit and an earnest desire to lead a truly devoted life, to the honor and glory of His holy name. Amen.

The Laity have equal representation with the Ministry in both the annual and general conferences.

Growth.

From this humble beginning of over a century ago there has been a steady, healthy growth as the following facts and figures will show. Number of Members 244,667. Number of Ministers 2,303. Number of organized churches 4,251.

Number of Young Peoples' Societies 1,632.

Number of Sunday School Scholars 200,333.

Number of Sunday School teachers and officers 35,996.

Number of church houses 3,298.

Value of church houses \$5,908,178.00.

Assets of Publishing House \$314,997.00.

Annual volume of business of Publishing House from April 1st, 1901, to April 1st, 1902, \$216,849.78.

Circulation of Literature

Religious Telescope, church organ, 19,500.

The Watchword Y. P. organ, 27,000.

Sunday School Lesson Helps:—

Bible Lesson Quarterly, 150,000.

Inter. Lesson Quarterly, 70,000.

Lessons for Little Ones, 58,000.

Children's Friends, 33,000.

Educational Institutions.

The church supports 8 colleges, and 4 academies with a total enrollment of 2,600 Students, 1 (one) Theological Seminary.

Missions.

The Missionary Society combines home and foreign work, and supports 75 home missions and foreign missions in Africa, Japan, Porto Rico, and Germany. There is also a Woman's Board with missions in Africa, China and the Philippines.

Confession of Faith.

In the name of God, we declare and confess before all men the following articles of our belief:

ARTICLE I.

OF GOD AND THE HOLY TRINITY.

We believe in the only true God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; that these three are one—the Father in the Son, the Son in the Father, and the Holy Ghost equal in essence, or being with the Father and the Son.

ARTICLE II.

OF CREATION AND PROVIDENCE.

We believe that this triune God created the heavens and the earth and all that in them is, visible and invisible; that he sustains, protects and governs these, with gracious regard for the welfare of man, and the glory of His name.

ARTICLE III.

OF JESUS CHRIST

We believe in Jesus Christ; that he is very God and man; that he became incarnate by the power of the Holy Ghost and was born of the Virgin Mary; that He is the Saviour and Mediator of the whole human race, if they with full faith accept the grace proffered in Jesus; that this Jesus suffered and died on the cross for us, was buried, rose again on the third day, ascended into Heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God, to intercede for us and that he will come again at the last day to judge the living and the dead.

ARTICLE IV.

OF THE HOLY GHOST.

We believe in the Holy Ghost; that he is equal in being with the Father and the Son; that he convinces the world of

sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; that he comforts the faithful and guides them into all truth.

ARTICLE V.

OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES.

We believe that the Holy Bible, Old and new Testament, is the Word of God; that it reveals the only true way to our salvation; that every true christian is bound to acknowledge and receive it by the help of the spirit of God as the only rule and guide in faith and practice.

ARTICLE VI.

OF THE CHURCH.

We believe in a holy Christian church, composed of true believers, in which the Word of God is preached by men divinely called, and the ordinances are duly administered; that this Divine institution is for the maintenance of worship, for the edification of believers, and the conversion of the world to Christ.

ARTICLE VII.

OF THE SACRAMENTS.

We believe that the sacraments, baptism and the Lord's supper are to be used in the church, and should be practised by all Christians; but the mode of baptism and the manner of observing the Lord's Supper are always left to the judgment and understanding of each individual. Also, the baptism of children shall be left to the judgment of believing parents.

The example of the "washing of feet" is to be left to the judgment of each one, to practice or not.

ARTICLE VIII.

OF DEPRAVITY.

We believe that man is fallen from his original righteousness, and, apart from the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, is not only entirely destitute of holiness, but is inclined to evil, and only evil, and that continually; and that except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of Heaven.

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ARTICLE IX.

OF JUSTIFICATION.

We believe that penitent sinners are justified before God only by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and not by works; yet that good works in Christ are acceptable to God, and spring out of a true and living faith.

ARTICLE X.

OF REGENERATION AND ADOPTION.

We believe that regeneration is the renewal of the heart of man after the image of God, through the word, by the act of the Holy Ghost, by which the believer receives the spirit of adoption and is enabled to serve God with the will and the affections.

ARTICLE XI.

OF SANCTIFICATION.

We believe that Sanctification is the work of God's grace, through the word and the Spirit, by which those who have been born again are separated in their acts, words, and thoughts from sin, and are enabled to live unto God and to follow holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.

ARTICLE XII.

OF THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH.

We believe that the Christian Sabbath is divinely appointed; that it is commemorative of our Lord's resurrection from the grave, and is an emblem of our eternal rest; that it is essential to the welfare of the civil community, and to the permanence and growth of the Christian church, and that it should be reverently observed as a day of holy rest and social and public worship.

ARTICLE XIII.

OF THE FUTURE STATE.

We believe in the resurrection of the dead; the future general judgment, and an eternal state of rewards, in which the righteous dwell in endless life, and the wicked in endless punishment.

SOME THINGS WE NEED

MORE FAITH in GOD.

MORE LOVE to CHRIST.

MORE CONFIDENCE in the HOLY SPIRIT.

A deeper sense of the priceless value of souls.

A quiet personal self-surrender to the will of God and the service of Christ.

A real, far-reaching, thorough-going revival of personal religion and scriptural holiness.

More homiliness, cordiality, and real fellowship in our Church-life.

More earnest, continuous prayer for the outpouring of the Spirit in Pentecostal measure.

More personal effort for the conversion of individuals

A more frank and courageous profession of loyalty to Christ in daily life.

A thoroughly Christian conscience, referring all conduct to God.

The progressive realization of the Christian ideal in every sphere of life.

HOW YOU CAN HELP OUR CHURCH

In regard to **YOURSELF**, resolve :

1. To realize your personal responsibility. Don't imagine that the responsibility for the success of the Church rests on the minister and Officers ; every member has a share.

2. Cultivate that intimate communion with Christ which is so productive of compassion for souls. Try to catch the Master's spirit and to imitate His example. Be considerate, appreciative, sympathetic, and helpful, as He was.

3. Seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Make it a matter of special prayer, and strong, specific, faith. And remember, as your spiritual capacity enlarges, further and richer anointings will be necessary.

In regard to **OTHERS** resolve :

1. To encourage your fellow-Christians. By attending as many meetings as possible, leading in prayer or giving your testimony occasionally ; and showing sympathy with those around you, especially strangers, young converts, and those in trouble of any kind.

2. Put forth some definite effort to win souls, especially those near and dear to you, by praying constantly for them, and as opportunity offers, speaking to them, trying to bring them to the services and to the Saviour.

3. Be especially careful to exhibit a Christlike character, not only in the services, but at home, at work, and everywhere. Be good-tempered, patient, gentle, kind, loving. Even if you don't say much, your life will show that you are loyal to Christ and devoted to His service.

COME TO OUR PRAYER-MEETING

It is absolutely certain a goodly number will be there. God the Father will be there, seated upon the throne of Grace, extending His sceptre of love, saying, "What is thy request, and it shall be granted."

The Lord Jesus Christ will be there: He who died for thee, and who ever lives to make intercession for all who come unto God by Him.

The Holy Spirit will be there, to teach us how to pray and what to pray for, so that all may be comforted, strengthened, and blest.

Good men and women will be there, to offer united supplications to Almighty God, for His blessings upon the Church and the world.

And, dear fellow-Christian, will not you be there?



Your family and your friends need your prayers, that they may all be converted and saved.

Your neighbors need your prayers that they may be awakened and blest.

The Church needs your prayers, that it may be purified and strengthened, enriched and enlarged.

The nation needs your prayers for its peace and prosperity, its righteousness and progress.

The world needs your prayers, that its wickedness may be abated, and that the reign of God may be everywhere established.

Come, then, to the Prayer Meeting. The need is great and urgent. The supply is abundant and inexhaustible. The blessing is promised and certain, "Ask, and ye shall have; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you; for everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

ALL are invited. ALL are welcome. ALL may take part. ALL may be refreshed and strengthened. ALL may be blest and saved.

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DAILY DUTIES.

ADVICE TO YOUNG CHRISTIANS.

1. Begin each day with God, by thanking Him for His continued goodness, by obtaining a renewed consciousness of His presence and favour, and by praying for and receiving grace to help in time of need.

2. Accept the trials and temptations that assail you through the day, however many or great they may be, as affording you further opportunities of trusting your Almighty Friend and Saviour to sustain and deliver you.

3. Avoid all things that are inconsistent with the fact that you are a Christian—evil-speaking, uncharitableness, dilly-dallying with temptation, undue anxiety, all worldliness, selfishness and spiritual pride.

4. If ever you are in doubt as to whether a thing is right or wrong, kneel down and ask God's blessing upon it. If you cannot do this, it is certainly wrong.

5. Always strive to act as you would if you saw your Saviour standing by your side. Recollect He is really there. "Thou, God seest me."

6. Cultivate a spirit of disinterested kindness to all, especially those who are in trouble of any kind; and at the same time watch for opportunities of doing good, and if you don't see any, make some.

7. Read your Bible every day as much as possible, especially the New Testament, and learn to use it both for devotional and evangelistic purposes.

8. Try to win others for Jesus: (1) your relatives and friends, (2) those in the sphere of your daily calling, (3) those who are forgotten and neglected by others.

9. "Be filled with the Spirit"; pray for and expect the Pentecostal Baptism—cleansing from sin, filling with love, and clothing with power—which is the source of Christian sanctity and the secret of successful service.

10. Remember the possibilities of Christian life altogether transcend your experience. Therefore, seek to become more and more Christ-like. Always cherish the loftiest ideals, and strive to realize them day by day.

11. Above all, remember that God loves you, Christ is your Saviour, the Holy Spirit is your Comforter, the Word of God is your Guide, the Children of God are your Brothers and Sisters, and Heaven is your eternal Home.

DEAR FRIEND:

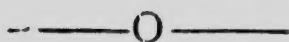
You are cordially invited to attend the

UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH

The services are

BRIGHT, CHEERFUL
AND HELPFUL.

Will You Come



If by means of the worship and teaching there you become happier and holier our sole object in this invitation will be realized.

N.B. The pastor will gladly visit any who are sick, etc., if requested.

